

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022  
6:45 P.M.  
SCHIEFFELIN HALL**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Dustin Escapule called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners to order on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Dustin Escapule led the members and the general public in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Colin Regan	Present
Commissioner Bill Barlow	Present
Commissioner Charlene McMahon	Present
Commissioner Jim Newbauer	Present
Chairman Dustin Escapule	Present
Vice Chairman Jim Adams	Present

Also in attendance:

Brenda Ikirt, Interim City Clerk

**A QUORUM WAS DECLARED**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:** Approval of minutes from Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

**MOTION** by Commissioner McMahon, **SECOND** by Commissioner Newbauer, to approve minutes from Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** 5/0

**MOTION:** Carried

**V. VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

**The Marshal's Report – March 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022.**

Vice Chairman Adams; "Mr. Mayor, members of Council, disgusted citizens and Ladies, good evening. This will be the report for March 1, through March 31."

## **CALLS FOR SERVICE**

During that period of time, we had 144 Calls for Service, 33 Traffic Stops, 2 Motor Vehicle Accidents. The number of calls for service was up from February when we had 120. Buckle up, we had a lot of major events in the month of March. Those will follow in a moment but first we are going to talk about the illegal immigrant issue and the occasional vehicle pursuit by smugglers which are still local concern. For historical background; Customs and Border Protection confirmed over 153,000 encounters at the border in the month of January and comparable numbers for February. The current administration is planning on abolishing Title 42, which allowed for the rapid deportation of illegal immigrants during a public health crisis (being COVID, of course). There are intel reports of several hundred thousand people camped out at the border waiting to cross and caravans heading north from South and Central America. There is always the potential for terrorists and other persons who are criminally inclined to intersperse with these groups to gain access to our country. This is something that we are aware of and we want you to be aware of it as well!"

## **MAJOR EVENTS IN MARCH**

"Mr. Lee Boardman; This was a Domestic Violence case that turned into a resisting arrest and several accounts of Aggravated Assault on a police officer. He accepted a plea bargain and will be sentenced this month."

"Roger King accepted a plea bargain to three counts of Aggravated Assault regarding a September, 2021 case here in Tombstone. He was sentenced to 6 months in jail, probation and restitution. He is currently in jail serving his time!"

"Joseph Montoya was arrested at the Boarder Patrol checkpoint for a Felony Warrant out of New Mexico. He also had a baggie of Suboxone and Methamphetamines stashed in let's say a sensitive part of his body and tried to sneak it into the jail, that added a total of six other felonies to his warrant."

"Whitney Rose and Andrew Armentrout were arrested for Kidnapping, Aggravated Robbery, Aggravated Assault and Possession of Dangerous Drugs and over 70 grams of Methamphetamines. Both were indicted by a Grand Jury following the execution of a search warrant here in town with the assistance of the Cochise County Sheriff's Office. They are pending adjudication."

"One of my deputies had a pursuit outside of town heading North at over 110 mph. The Deputy broke off the chase and notified other agencies when the chase became dangerous and the suspect started driving reckless. The suspect vehicle was observed traveling at over 90 mph through St. David by the Benson PD, even when the suspect was not being followed anymore. The 17-year-old female driver was caught in Pima County following a crash and will likely receive additional charges from her activities in Tombstone."

"A few days later, we had another pursuit heading North. As a point of reference: When we detect a suspected load vehicle coming through Tombstone we wait until the vehicle is outside of Tombstone before we attempt to stop. Suspects fleeing this way are not endangering people within populated areas, specifically in town

and we also terminate those pursuits before getting to St. David, being another populated area, and notify other agencies if we are unable to achieve a stop before they get there. Anyways, back to the story; according to the DPS, the car in this particular chase went a few miles further then tried to duck in between some trees. Unfortunately, for them someone had gone through and cut every other tree down and there was a pretty substantial stump that they found when they crashed. There were two UDAs found in that vehicle and turned over to Border Patrol. The driver at the time of that report was still at large.”

“We also recovered a stolen vehicle taken in an armed robbery in the Phoenix area. It was recovered in Tombstone after a traffic stop. In addition, there were two illegal immigrants and two weapons. The car was towed, the UDAs were taken by Border Patrol and the driver was taken to jail.”

“A citizen called to report his 19-year-old cousin had been carjacked in Tombstone, was injured and was now missing. Turns out he was actually in custody for smuggling illegal immigrants. I guess that was the best excuse he could come up with for being home late to dinner.”

“We had three more UDAs that were discovered on another traffic stop and they were turned over to Border Patrol. Of course, this is just going to be an ongoing thing! There were seven more this morning.”

“We also had 28 cases where we assisted other agencies with various investigations to include Border Patrol and the Sheriff’s Office, as they are short - staffed and often unable to respond to the Tombstone area to handle calls or have a delayed response to priority incidents. Again, we all work well together, it’s just that everyone is short.”

“Another key point to remember, especially, when we are talking about this illegal smuggling. Smugglers are driving with exceptional disregard for the safety of others, whether they are being pursued or not. As such, I would strongly encourage all pedestrians and motorists to look both ways before crossing the road or entering an intersection, even if your light is green. I would recommend frequently checking your rear-view mirror and traffic coming to you, as these suspects commonly drive into opposing traffic and pass both on the shoulder side of the street and across double yellow lines. Don’t expect to see lights or hear sirens before you pay attention because often times law enforcement has discontinued the pursuit but the suspects continue to drive reckless.”

#### **Personnel Matters:**

“We currently have an open Dispatch position and one of our Deputies departed so we have a vacancy as a result of that!”

#### **Other Items of Interest:**

“We received several \$20,000 military grade thermal scopes through an equipment program at no cost to the City. These are for observing heat signatures, which is particularly useful for finding people in the dark. It comes in handy when we are

chasing immigrants around and they bale out of cars and run off into the desert. It helps us see their heat signature, through the warmth of their body.”

“We received a \$2,000 donation from the Arizona Rangers and I am presently applying for a Sheriff’s Assist Team Grant to supplement it. The plan is to use those funds to purchase some refurbished AEDs for each patrol vehicle.”

“I met with representatives from the National Guard and I am working on getting an analyst to reconcile a vast amount of information we have obtained from a variety of sources on local drug dealing activities. The analyst will be free to the City, as it’s part of a Governor’s Office Grant. “

“The local El Tour De Tucson bike event went off without issue.”

**Reserve Hours:**

“Our Reserves donated 70 hours in March for a salary savings of \$1,365.00.”

Vice Chairman Adams asked if there were any questions.

**There being no further questions Chairman Escapule closes discussion and moves for adjournment.**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Newbauer, **SECOND** by Commissioner Regan, to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE:** 5/0

**MOTION:** Carried

The Board of Police Regular meeting for Tuesday, April 12, 2022, thereby adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

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Dustin Escapule, Chairman

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Brenda Ikirt, Interim City Clerk